

of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 with effect from 10th February, 2006, as on date there are 234 valid formal approvals and 162 valid in-principle approvals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Another 322 proposals have since been received for setting up SEZs.

(b) and (c) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date, land is in the ownership/possession of either State Industrial Development Corporations/State Governments or with the developers and in these cases, there is no fresh acquisition of land involved. However, in some of the cases out of 162 cases where in principle approvals had been given the State Governments have initiated land acquisition proceedings. Various representations received in this regard have been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM). The Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised National Rehabilitation Policy with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial projects including SEZs.

Assistance under Market Access Initiative Scheme

900. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Market Access Initiative Scheme is a Plan Scheme to promote India's exports on a sustained basis and to extend assistance, *inter-alia*, to recognized industrial clusters and individual exporters;
- (b) if so, the selection criteria for assistance to them;
- (c) the details of industrial clusters and individual exporters which availed assistance under the scheme since 1st January, 2005; and
- (d) the success achieved in promoting exports of various items by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir; the Market Access Initiative Scheme is a Plan Scheme to promote India's exports on a sustained basis. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided to

eligible institutions for eligible activities as per the guidelines of the Scheme. Assistance is also provided to individual exporters for only testing charges, registration charges, etc. An Empowered Committee considers and approves project proposals received under MAI Scheme. Since January 2005, 16 individual exporters availed assistance of Rs. 39.11 lakhs under the Scheme through Export Promotion Councils. No industrial cluster availed assistance. Assistance under the Market Access Initiative Scheme has contributed to promotion of exports during the recent years.

FDI in retail sector

**901. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government finalised its policy on FDI in retail sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many retail stores have been set up at present in the country with foreign participation and the details of these outlets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, including policy in Retail Sector, is reviewed on a continuous basis. The policy on FDI in retail trading was last notified vide Press Note 3 and 4 (2006 series) both dated February 10, 2006. As per the extant policy, FDI in retail trading is allowed only in the retail of 'Single Brand Products' upto 51% with prior Government approval and subject to the following conditions:

- i. Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.
- ii. Products should be sold under the same brand internationally.
- iii. 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

(c) Since the policy announcement in February 2006 allowing FDI up to 51% in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products twenty five (25) proposals have been received for retail trade of 'Single Brand' products. 3 proposals have been rejected, and 11 proposals are under examination. 11 proposals have been approved for various products viz. Shoes, Leather products, Apparels, Porcelain Figurines, Furniture, Silver Jewellery, Cars. Details of the proposals are given in the enclosed statements.